Best of Ireland
North and South
August 30 - September 14, 2019 • 16 Days • 24 Meals
Escorted by Wendy Marshall
Ireland, Eire, the Emerald Isle; each of these names brings to mind a fair green island with rolling fields, friendly people, dramatic coastlines and a history as long as any in the world.

Come with us as we explore this delightful island discovering the history and architecture of Dublin, the magnificent scenery of the Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula and Connemara, and the natural treasures of the north, including one of the world's truly unique features, the Giant's Causeway.

To ensure a leisurely pace, we will stay two or three nights in most of the centres visited, allowing members ample opportunity to enjoy a visit to the local pub and to absorb the easy going lifestyles of the Irish. A full Irish breakfast is included daily plus many dinners. In addition to our Canadian tour escort, and with the luck of the Irish, you will have the services of Willie Cusker, our very popular Irish driver/guide.

Our rates for these journeys are truly inclusive and we'll even provide a taste or two of true Irish stout for those who are interested. This is one of our most popular tours. These departures always fill quickly, we urge you to enroll as early as possible.

Tour Highlights
- Magnificent scenery - Glens of Antrim, Connemara, Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Peninsula, Ring of Kerry
- The Giant's Causeway, the incredible result of an ancient volcanic eruption
- Visit the Aran Islands off Ireland’s West Coast
- Banquet at a Medieval Castle with wine
- Visit to Ulster American Folk Park
- Visit the National Museum of Country Life
- Performance of Gaelic Roots in Killarney
- Visit to Epic Ireland in Dublin
- Farewell Dinner with traditional Irish entertainment

Inclusive Features
- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Dublin
- Comfortable centrally located hotels as indicated or similar (most stays 2 or 3 nights)
- 24 meals included as noted in the itinerary (shown as B - 14 Irish breakfasts, D - 10 dinners)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare
- Services of our Canadian tour leader plus our professional driver/guide throughout Ireland

Tour Escort
Wendy Marshall is a retired teacher from Woodstock, Ontario who loves to share the joy of travel with others. She lives on a dairy farm with her husband Ron. She performs in local community theatre and is learning to play the tenor drum in a pipe band. As an educator, she has led student tours to England, France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Spain. Now she loves sharing the travel bug with adults. She and her husband Ron have led groups to Ireland and Scotland. Wendy has travelled extensively throughout Europe by bus, car, train and cruise ships. She has had some unique experiences such as a mission trip to Peru and a choir trip to Panama. Wendy wants everyone who travels with her to have an amazing time and will make sure that you also catch the travel bug and have a trip of a lifetime on this adventure to Ireland!
August 30, Friday
Depart Canada
Tour members from across Canada gather in Toronto for the direct flight bound for Ireland.

August 31, Saturday
Dublin / Mourne / Ballymena
We are met on arrival by our driver / guide. Heading north, we drive via Dundalk to picturesque Carlingford at the foot of the Cooley Mountains. Hugging the coastline, we continue via Ometh and observe the Mountains of Mourne that 'sweep down to the sea'. Skirting Belfast city we travel via Antrim to Ballymena and check-in to our hotel for two nights. Gather with fellow group members for our Welcome Dinner. Adair Arms Hotel (2 nights) D

September 1, Sunday
Belfast / Ballymena
This morning our journey to Belfast, capital of Northern Ireland and birth place of the epic Titanic. Enjoy a comprehensive sightseeing tour of this friendly city, with views of the Grand Opera House, Linen Hall Library, Stormont Buildings and the world famous murals. Pass through Queens Quarter whose namesake houses the renowned university along with the stunning Botanic Gardens and boasts a lively social scene. Free time later to explore this historic city and perhaps visit Titanic Quarter. Later return to Ballymena. B

September 2, Monday
Glens of Antrim / Giant's Causeway / Moville
Departing Ballymena we follow the Marine Drive, passing the ‘Green Glens of Antrim’ via Cushendall and Ballycastle all the way to the Giant's Causeway, one of Ireland’s most famous and dramatic sites. Marvel at this remarkable natural rock formation, a virtual cascade of geometric basaltic columns which descend to the sea. Continue past the eerie ruins of Dunluce Castle and the walls of Derry en route to Moville in northern Donegal, our home for the next two nights. Redcastle Hotel (2 nights) B

September 3, Tuesday
Omagh / Londonderry
Today our journey takes us to Omagh for a visit to the Ulster American Folk Park which tells the story of emigration from Ulster to America in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Return to the historic city of Derry with some free time for lunch followed by a guided walking tour along the city walls plus a visit to the award winning Tower Museum. Time permitting we may also visit Derry’s historic Guildhall and the new Heritage Centre dedicated to St Columba. Later return to Moville. BD

September 4, Wednesday
Sligo / Yeats / Turlough Park / Westport
Departing Moville travel via Letterkenny and Bundoran to Sligo. Enter the romantic domain of W.B. Yeats as we travel via Drumcliffe and other areas associated with the life and works of the poet. We continue via Collooney and Tobercorry to magnificent Turlough Park where we visit the National Museum of Country Life and discover what life was like in rural Ireland in the 1800 and 1900s. Later to Westport on Clew Bay. Westport Plaza Hotel (2 nights) BD

September 5, Thursday
Connemara
Connemara remains the wildest and most romantic place in Ireland. Drive around the Murrisk Peninsula to Killary Harbour, Ireland’s only true fjord. Enjoy a break at Kylemore Abbey on the shores of Kylemore Lough before circling Connemara and crossing the picturesque Maam Valley where black-headed sheep make up a large part of the population. Returning to Westport we will have time to explore this lovely town. B

Sept 6, Friday
Galway / Ballyvoe / Medieval Banquet
Heading south we pass Galway crossing the lunar-like landscape of the Burren to Lisdoonvarna and onto Ballyvoe where we stop at the Ekotree Studio and Knitwear Visitor Centre with time for shopping and to meet the craftsmen behind these distinctly Irish products. We continue to Shannon and check-in to our hotel for the next two nights. This evening we join in on the fun of a traditional medieval banquet at a 15th century Castle. Treacys Oakwood Hotel (2 nights) BD

Sept 7, Saturday
Aran Islands / Cliffs of Moher / Shannon
Travel along the Wild Atlantic Way to nearby Doolin where we board a ferry for Inis Oírr, the smallest of the Aran Islands. Time to explore this beautiful little island with its stunning beaches and vistas. Enjoy a guided walking tour and perhaps visit the arts and cultural centre and to meet the islanders. On our return cruise view the Cliffs of Moher from a unique perspective. This spectacular journey breathtakingly highlights the sheer majesty of the Cliffs and gives an insight into the remarkable wildlife of the area. Later return to Shannon with dinner at the hotel. BD

Sept 8, Sunday
Killimer / Tarbert / Tralee / Killarney
Today travel to Killimer and take the short ferry trip to Tarbert in the Kingdom of Kerry. Continue to Listowel and on to the county town of Tralee. We explore the wild and rugged scenery of Dingle, vividly captured in the film Ryan's Daughter, as we travel west to Dingle town and Slea Head via the picturesque towns of Anascaul and Inch. Later to Killarney, a delightful resort town, close by Lough Leane and Muckross House. Dinner at hotel this evening. Killarney Avenue Hotel (2 nights) BD

Sept 9, Monday
Ring of Kerry / Irish Evening
Enjoy Ireland’s most scenic drive today as we travel via Killorglin, Glenbeigh with views of Dingle Bay and onto the fishing village of Cahirciveen. As we reach to the outer end of the Ring, we have views of the Atlantic and the isolated Skellig Islands, 12 km off the coast. The larger of the islands was a Monastic settlement for over 600 years starting in the 6th century. Enjoy the Skellig Experience, offering an introduction to life on the islands. Rocky headlands, isolated island clusters and spectacular seascapes, each compete for attention whilst journeying to the scenic town of Sneem. Turning inland, we descend through the heart of the Kerry Mountains, through Molls Gap, to view the legendary Lakes of Killarney en route back to our hotel. Later we enjoy an evening of Irish song, music and dance at the Gaelic Roots Show. B
September 10, Tuesday  Blarney / Waterford / Kilkenny
We travel via Macroom to Blarney where we stop for the handicrafts and an opportunity to kiss the famous 'Stone of Eloquence'. This afternoon we visit the historic city of Waterford, founded by the Vikings some 1,100 years ago and the exceptional Waterford House of Crystal with some free time in the gift shop. Onto the medieval city of Kilkenny for dinner and overnight. Newpark Hotel (1 night)  BD

Sept 11, Wednesday  Kilkenny / National Stud / Dublin
Though only a town in size, Kilkenny has the status of a city having vied with Dublin to become the capital in the 17th Century. Explore the quaint city centre and visit the Castle at your leisure, principal seat of the Butler Family since the 12th century. En route to Dublin we travel through the Curragh of Kildare with a guided tour of the Irish National Stud, home to some of Ireland’s finest thoroughbred horses. Visit the Horse Museum and both the Japanese and Saint Fiachra’s Gardens. We continue to the capital city of Dublin for check-in to hotel for dinner and overnight. Camden Court Hotel (3 nights)  BD

September 12, Thursday  Dublin’s Fair City
Enjoy a tour of ‘Dublin Town’. First stop this morning is the imposing St. Patrick’s Cathedral, where Swift, author of Gulliver’s Travels, was once the Dean. A highlight of the visit will be the recently renovated Lady’s Chapel, the original of which dates from 1270. Relive the history of the city and enjoy the elegant architecture of Dublin’s Georgian Squares. Later to Epic Ireland in Dublin’s Docklands which tells the stories of Irish emigrants and their influence globally. Perhaps trace your ancestry at the Irish Family History Centre located in the same building. The afternoon we are free to explore and to enjoy Dublin’s ‘Fair City’, an ancient city that is as intimate as a village and as friendly as a pub. This evening members might want to attend a theatre performance or a musical evening at the National Concert Hall or the Abbey Theatre.  B

September 13, Friday  Dublin a Day of Discovery
While today has been left completely free, those interested may join a guided walking tour this morning of Dublin’s medieval streets. This afternoon we can visit the National Art Gallery, the National Museum or even impressive City Hall. Other options that you might consider include Trinity College, historic Kilmainham Jail, GPO Witness History or some last minute shopping. Our special Farewell Dinner with traditional Irish entertainment will be at the Merry Ploughboy Pub (or similar) tonight.  BD

September 14, Saturday  Dublin / Canada
Regrettfully our Irish journey must draw to a close as we say farewell to our Irish friends and fly home to Canada.  B

CT Rating 3/5 – Moderately Challenging: This coach tour is designed as a leisurely, in depth experience with two or three nights at most hotels. Members should be aware that the journey includes a number of longer walks, some over uneven terrain and with changes in elevation.

Book and deposit by March 29, 2019 and save $200 per person

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars per person
Land Only (Join / Leave Dublin) ........................................... $4,695
Toronto ................................................................. $5,795
Ottawa / Montreal .................................................. $5,935
Halifax.............................................................. $6,025
St. John’s / Winnipeg............................................... $6,065
Saskatoon / Regina ............................................... $6,235
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver ....................... $6,135
Victoria.............................................................. $6,235
Single Supplement .............................................. $845

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a minimum 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective July 2018. Prices are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 group members.

Prices DO NOT INCLUDE the cost of insurance which is available and is highly recommended. Premiums vary with the cost, length of the trip, and the traveller’s age. For passengers up to and including 74 years on departure date, premiums will range from $278 to $381 pp plus applicable taxes. Cost supplements for travellers aged 75-85 will range from $196 to $394pp plus applicable taxes. This insurance is effective from the date of purchase and carries limitations on pre-existing medical conditions. Clients 86 years and older and/or clients residing outside Ontario - please contact our staff for procedures. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for general information and conditions.

Final payment will be due June 4, 2019
Deposit is $400 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:

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